THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prognosticated resources of hydrocarbons in the north east region is considered to be around 5000 million tonnes.

(c) ONGC and Oil India Limited are already carrying out exploration in this region in a systematic manner.

Development Council for tyres and tubes

*173. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Development council for tyres and tubes was setup long back to monitor the situation in the tyre industry and the market;

(b) if so, when was the Council set up and how many meetings have held so far, indicating the dates of the meetings;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Committee has not met since May, 1985; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) A Development Council for the scheduled industry engaged in the manufacture of tyres and tubes was first constituted under the provisions of Section 6 of the Industries (Dev. & Re, Act 1951 *vide* Notification dated 12th March, 1983 The Council was dissolved and reconstituted in June, 1984 for a period of two years. It was again reconstituted *vide* Notification dated 29th July, 1987 for a period of 2 years with effect from the date of the notification. The meetings of the Development Council were held on 20-12-1984, 17-7-1985 and 8-5-1986.

(c) and (d) A meeting of the Council was held on 8-5-1986. A circular letter has already been issued to all Members of the re-constituted Council requesting for their suggestions regarding issues which they would like the Council to consider in its first meeting.

Second satellite earth antenna system

*174. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earth satellite station at Arvi in Narayangao near Pune is going to have second satellite earth antenna system worth Rs. 16 crore to replace the ageing one set up in 1971; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for establishment of the Standard 'A' antenna in replacement of the existing one and replacement of some of the assaociated equipments has recently been sanctioned at an estimate cost of Rs. 15.78 crores.

(b) The antenna system will consist of wheel-on-track type of standard 'A' antenna, to work with the satellite system of the INTELSAT (International Telecommunications Satellite organisation) and associated radio/other equipments. It will have analogue and time division multiple access carriers. The scheme is expected to be completed by December 1989.

After commissioning of the new antenna, the original is proposed to be

refurbished and over-hauled and re-used for working on another satellite.

Power position in the country

*175. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power position in the country in general and in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal in particular is very grim; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to help these States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) There is a power shortage in various States, including Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) The power shortage in the country is mainly on account of short-fall in hydel generation due to low reservoir levels and a sharp increase in agricultural demand for power due to the widespread drought conditions. An action plan has been implemented to augment thermal generation by about 6000 million units in the current year and assistance to the extent possible is provided to the States concerned from Central stations and neighbouring systems.

Arrears of payment due to Coal India Limited

*176. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrears of payment against the coal despatches by the Coal India Limited (CIL) to different State Electricity Boards and public sector undertakings have piled up to a huge amount;

(b) if so, what are the names of defaulting State electricity Boards and public sector undertakings and what is the amount in arrears due from each of them as on the 31st January, 1988;

(c) the percentage of such arrears to the total arrears owed to the CIL; and

(d) what steps are being taken for their realisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount in arrears towards payment for coal despatched by Coal India Ltd., to State Electricity Boards and Public Sector Undertakings were Rs. 1055.22 crores as on 31-1-1988 of which an amount of Rs. 520.79 crores is claimed as deductions by them. A statement showing break up of power house-wise and steel Plant-wise outstanding due as on 31-1-1988 is attached (*See below.*) The percentage of such arrears to the total outstanding dues to CIL works out to 89.64 per cent;

(d) (i) Regular follow up action is taken by Coal companies and coal India to realise outstanding dues from various electricity Boards/Power stations and Steel Plants.

(ii) State electricity Boards have been raising disputes regarding coal supply bills and with holding payments of the disputed amounts. They have been advised to settle disputes through arbitration and open letters of credit.

(iii) Department of Coal has also been taking up the matter with the State Governments to clear their dues expeditiously.